

# Evie

**Evie is a 14 year old girl who attends her local special school. She enjoys listening to music, being around people, and going to town to listen to the bands that play on the streets at the weekend.**

Evie is physically and learning disabled, she has no verbal communication. She communicates through facial expression and posture. Evie makes it very clear who she likes to be with as her face lights up and she will put her hands out to be held, especially when she bumps into any friends from school in town. Evie is very popular and knows a lot of people.

For the last three years Evie has been having short breaks with a contract carer who is approved to have three young people at one time in her home, which is specially adapted to support young people with complex health needs. Evie stays at the house one weekend every month and especially enjoys the sensory room. Evie doesn't see any of her friends outside of school unless she sees them in town and her carer has noticed recently how animated and happy she looks after she has seen someone she knows.



Image posed by model

- What are the main challenges Evie faces with regard to friendship?
- What role could the short breaks service provider play in supporting the young person to meet existing friends or make new friends?
- What would your next steps be to put your plan into action?



## Facilitator's notes:

It may be that some of the other young people who go to stay with the contract carer are already friends with Evie, although that cannot be assumed. This should be explored by the short breaks coordinator. They could speak to school and find out who Evie gets on well with – there could be opportunities to arrange the placements so that Evie goes to stay at the same time as her friend.

If any of Evie's friends have been offered community short breaks, they could join Evie at her contract carer's home to use the sensory room, all friends together. This could offer Evie the chance to see her friends and also provide an activity for the other young people using existing resources, without increasing the level of responsibility for the carers.